

I congratulate him on his much deserved Distinguished Service Award.

IN CELEBRATION OF RED RIBBON
WEEK

HON. BILL MCCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 1999

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, February 7, 1985, Enrique "Kiki" Camarena stashed his DEA badge and his service revolver in his desk drawer and headed for a lunch date with his wife. Kiki, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent, had been in Mexico for 4½ years on the trail of Mexico's marijuana and cocaine barons. He was due to be reassigned in three weeks, having come dangerously close to unlocking a multibillion-dollar drug pipeline, which he suspected extended in the highest reaches of the Mexican army, police and government.

As Kiki was about to get into the cab of his truck, five men appeared and shoved him into a car, threw a jacket over Kiki's head and sped away. Kiki Camarena's body was found 1 month later in a shallow grave 70 miles from Michoacan, Mexico. He had been tortured, beaten and brutally murdered.

This week, Oct. 23–31, we celebrate Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is a time to commemorate the death of Kiki Camarena and for communities to come together to reinforce a drug-free message. The red ribbon, which I am wearing, has become a symbol to eliminate the demand for drugs, and the National Family Partnership's Red Ribbon Campaign is designed to create community awareness concerning drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

It is estimated that 80 million people participate annually in Red Ribbon Week. In order

for the Red Ribbon Week message to be effective in communities, it must be recognized and reinforced across as many sectors of the community as possible—schools, businesses, parents, churches, law enforcement, doctors, government, social service organizations, etc. Red Ribbon Week provides an important opportunity for everyone in the community to use their unique skills and talents to deliver a drug-free message.

All of us want to make our communities healthier, safer and drug free for our children to grow up in. During this week may we join together and remember those officials like Kiki Camarena who have given their lives in order to fight the war on drugs. And may we mobilize our communities to prevent problem behaviors before they start, so that we help create a brighter, healthier and drug-free future for our children and for the 21st century.

IN HONOR OF HEAD START
AWARENESS MONTH AND THE
NATIONAL HEAD START ASSO-
CIATION

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 1999

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, since its establishment on May 18, 1965, Head Start has provided comprehensive health, education, nutritional and social services to over 17 million children and their families. Today, the program includes more than 835,000 children, 167,130 staff, and 2,051 Head Start grantees and delegate agencies nationwide.

October 1999 has been designated as Head Start Awareness Month. I rise today to join with everyone in the more than 48,000 Head Start classrooms who celebrate the success of Head Start everyday.

With next year's 35th anniversary of Head Start we will all have an opportunity to join together to promote the continued quality, comprehensiveness, and accountability of the program which has given it the staying power to improve the lives of low-income children and families.

The program also has an impact on child development and day care services; the expansion of state and local activities for children; the range and quality of services offered to young children and their families; and the design of training programs for those who staff such programs. Outreach and training activities also assist parents in increasing their parenting skills and knowledge of child development.

With the bipartisan reauthorization of the program in 1998, we embarked upon a new era for Head Start. Increased professional development, research into the long-term benefits of the program, outcome measures and program accountability, and an expansion of Early Head Start were but a few of the changes in the law. Progress is already being made.

In the days ahead, Congress will likely be considering legislation to provide a significant part of the resources needed to make good on the promise of last year's reauthorization.

Our partner in that reauthorization process and a critical element of delivering on the promise is the National Head Start Association. Representing the program's 835,000 children, 167,130 staff, and 2,051 Head Start grantees and delegate agencies nationwide, NHTA provides training tools and policy guidance in a manner which makes the program more effective and most responsive to the needs of America's low-income children and families. I am honored to join with the Association in celebrating Head Start Awareness Month—October 1999.